

VZCZCXRO7879
PP RUEHGR
DE RUEHSP #0501 3151747
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 101747Z NOV 08
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9493
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 000501

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EB/TPP/IPE AND WHA/CAR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [KIPR](#) [TD](#)
SUBJECT: CBS PARAMOUNT REACHES DEAL WITH FLOW

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY

REF: (A) 07 POS 1154 (B) POS 374

[¶1.](#) (SBU) In an ongoing effort to legitimize its content, Trinidad and Tobago's major cable TV provider Flow recently purchased the rights to all news, public affairs, entertainment, and sports content owned by CBS Paramount. Flow now holds the non-exclusive rights to broadcast these shows in Trinidad and Tobago for a period of two years beginning January 1, 2009.

[¶2.](#) (SBU) While this agreement demonstrates Flow's commitment to regularize its broadcasts, Flow continues to provide ABC, CBS, and NBC local U.S.-based affiliates' signals to its subscribers illegally. Since CBS Paramount does not own the rights to a number of shows aired by these domestic affiliates, it is not able to pursue the matter through legal channels despite a newly strengthened copyright law in Trinidad and Tobago. To push the issue forward, the individual rights holder would have to pursue the matter with local authorities. In the absence of legal action by rights holders, the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago has expressed reluctance to intervene and prohibit Flow from showing these channels, given their popularity with viewers in T&T.

AUSTIN